

- 17 -

## ABSTRACT

Transgenic hairless mice which express a full length or truncated human elastin promoter and fibroblast cultures derived from these transgenic mice are provided. Also  
5 provided are methods of identifying compounds capable of inhibiting cutaneous photodamage with these transgenic hairless mice or fibroblast cultures derived from these mice. In addition, an *in vitro* system for identifying agents capable of inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage in these mice  
10 fibroblast culture wherein reactive oxygen species are generated within the mouse fibroblast culture and a method for identifying agents which prevent oxidative damage are provided.